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Chas. H. Spencer, Iola, Kansas.

RAFTERY WRITES OF IOLA.

The Clever Writer of the Chicago Record-Herald Says Some Nice Things.

The REGISTER some days ago made mention of the presence here of Jack Raftery, a special writer of the Chicago Record-Herald, who is doing Kansas and the South-west for the Chicago Dry-Goods Reporter. Mr. Raftery sent in his first letter from Iola and the article is causing much favorable comment in the east. Several gas exchanges have quoted from it, carefully skipping the half of the letter devoted to Iola, so the REGISTER herewith produces the hitherto unprinted section.

Iola, Kansas' Feb. — In the old boom days of Kansas more romance and less truth was written about it than any state in the union. In most cities east of the Mississippi river the memory of its splendid rise is matched only by the exaggerated stories of its picturesque failure. The Kansan of twenty years ago did not understand the possibilities nor the limitations of his sun-bathed estate, but intoxicated with the young glory of its teeming prairies gave hostages to a fortune that was seldom loosed in a lifetime. And yet he has lived to see his pains redeemed. His sons and daughters, serene in their inherited loyalty to the State and born to the strenuous task of upbuilding the commonwealth which is their patrimony, have grown up with a spirit and an equipment for the work that is never easy to the pioneer, the argonaut, or the alien boomer.

How many people of the big cities of the middle west know, for instance, that in a single county in southeastern Kansas 75 per cent of a population of 20,000 is dependent on, engaged in and flourishing on manufacturing industries alone? Since when, they may well ask did this land of tall corn and billowing wheat crops become a shop of handicrafts and manufacture? It is a pertinent question and a new one, and even the well informed commercial man who quit "making" southeastern Kansas even four years ago cannot answer it. In those days this territory, except in the immediate neighborhood of Pittsburg, was wholly agricultural. Its small towns, dependent upon a mediocre farming and cattle region, were growing slowly. Iola, the county seat of Allen county, boasted of a population of 1,800. It was regarded as a "good town for the section," even if most of its merchants bought only small lots and took ninety days. That was four years ago.

ZINC SMELTERS OF IOLA. The other night riding into Iola I saw, serried against the dark southern sky like Titan torches blazing to the zenith, row after row of towering chimneys flaming lurid fire. I asked an Allen county farmer near me "What is that?"

"Those are the fires of the Iola smelters," said he proudly. "You know we are now turning out 40 per cent of the zinc product of the world. The Iola smelters are the largest thing of that kind in the United States."

Now that may sound like a Kansas "yarn," but it's so. In four years Iola has jumped from a village of less than 2,000 to a city of nearly 15,000, counting the population of Gas City and Third City, which are adjoining suburbs within three miles of the city's heart. Zinc, or Jack ore, is brought hither from Missouri, Arkansas, Colo-

and nearer points, to be reduced into marketable pigs, and the smelters are only as much as the threshold of their possibilities.

HEATING. Why is Iola, county seat of a hitherto agricultural county, chosen as the seat of a smelting head-quarters? Simply because, under the good farms and grazing lands, there lies an apparently limitless accumulation of odorless, intensely inflammable and fast flowing gas, which puts the region far and away ahead of the coal-burning smelters of five years ago. Every chicken-house, barn and farm engine in this neighborhood is warmed, lighted or energized with gas. It makes first-class light, surpasses coal or wood as a fuel at the rate of ten to one and costs 60 percent less than even Kansas coal.

Following quickly upon the development of the gasfield of southeastern Kansas came the discovery of inexhaustible deposits of lime and shale, the two essential ingredients of that cement called "Portland," famous the world over as the best material for sidewalks, waterproof grouting and cellar finish. The Kansas plant of a cement company capitalized for \$3,500,000 is now turning out 3,000 barrels of cement every day. It is three months behind its orders even with a million dollar plant running at full blast and, within two years of existence, it has successfully demonstrated that it can compete in New York and 'Prisco and yet pay 15 per cent profit to its common-stock holders.

BRICK KILNS FLOURISHING. Now you will take notice that these are new things.

Southeastern Kansas now has nothing to say about the weight of its pigs, the size of an ear of corn nor the circumference of a potato. You don't see much in the newspapers of this tidal wave of manufacturing activity that has suddenly swept across this section. Maybe it isn't picturesque enough for the story writers, but its true, tangible and permanent, and that's more than can be said of most of the sensational things written about Kansas. There will be no more corn palaces down here, no more monstrous bill stories, no real estate inflations. Farm values are slowly rising because the market for all products is fixed now near home. Power is so cheap that you can grind wheat, sack it and sell it without reference to Kansas City. Brick farm houses, brick town houses, brick stores, brick streets!

And speaking of brick reminds me; enough of brick clay has been located in the six southeastern counties of Kansas to build and pave every town in then over again. The cheapness and accessibility of gas fuel has placed first-rate pressed brick below lumber in the cost of building material. The vitrified product for paving is better than the famous Glen Carbon product of Illinois and more than a third cheaper. The towns show it. The new houses are of brick, the streets are an inescapable sample of "the goods;" the sidewalks of concrete might furnish models for the reconstruction of State street, Chicago. No-body in Kansas will be jealous of Iola—it is the home of gallant Funston—but, taking it as an example of the regeneration of this section of the State, one can see the change that is equally evident in every town and village of this region. In that town alone more than \$200,000 is paid out in monthly wages to the employees of factories. Truck farming has sprung

into the position of a leading industry because the gardeners find at home a better and readier market than in Kansas City, the nearest big market. **STABILITY OF THE NEW BOOM.**

It may not be important to indicate the real origin of this recent, sudden and remarkable development of a territory that has attracted less attention hitherto than any corresponding area of Kansas. But, whatever the cause, whether the plenitude of coal in Crawford county, the cheapness of gas in Allen county or the geological profusion of natural wealth in a state which was never accused of anything unusual than the possession of moral agricultural possibilities, the fact remains that southeast Kansas is just entering upon a career of commercial success which promises to make it one of the most lucrative and stable of all the new markets accessible to America's members of all classes of goods.

It must be inferred from this civic growth which I have outlined has drawn material from the depths of the earth. On the contrary it is the opposite; true that there are more farms here than there were five years ago.

But the enlarged size, the changed methods, the widening scope of the towns has altered the styles and needs of the consumers. They have what is called "city ways." They know about "styles." Even the farmers telephone to town to know "what show is there tonight?" They come in style. Miles from the court house they have porcelain bath-tubs. Hot water, gas, plumbing, rubber-tired runabouts and such things are no longer mysteries to the Kansas farmers. They have the price and they know. They don't wear cowskin overcoats any more and they know a good hat from a tar-bucket. The women are even more up-to-date than the men. The day is past when you could hand them a dinky basque buttoned up the back and convince them that it was "a-a fait." Oh, no! There's a modiste in every town in this section and the lady of the house never comes to the door with a yarn string around her Mother Hubbard. I don't know if there was ever a day when they did, but—

A Popular Institution.

The fact that the Parsons Business College at Parsons has an annual enrollment of three hundred students shows what legitimate advertising and high grade work will do. This institution has placed more than one thousand students in good positions since its organization. We have never known this institution to hold glaring inducements to prospective students, such as great discounts, life scholarships, guaranteed positions, etc., so common among other commercial schools. This is why it has gained the confidence of the public.

The next term of this great institution begins March 3 and we trust that some of our young people will avail themselves of the splendid advantages which it affords.

Mr. Wheeler Got Rid of His Rheumatism.

"During the winter of 1898 I was so lame in my joints, in fact all over my body, that I could hardly hobble around, when I bought a bottle of Chamberlain's Pain Balm. From the first application I began to get well, and was cured and have worked steadily all the year.—R. Wheeler, Northwood, N. Y." For sale by W. L. Crabb & Co., Campbell & Burrell.

WANTED—bushel of sweet corn for seed. J. H. ODELL, Box 15, Iola.

The Board of Education held a meeting last week and took up the discussion of the needs of a new school building. For several meetings the board was uncertain as to the location of the next proposed building, but that was settled by a decision to buy the Bunnell tract in east Iola. Last week it was decided to submit the proposition for a new building to the voters of the city.

The needs of the schools will require another eight-room building. This will not only accommodate all the students now attending school, by relieving the high school building, but it will accommodate the pupils for a year at least. The proposed call will be to vote on the issuing of \$22,000 bonds. From this sum about a \$15,000 school building will be erected and equipped. The rest of the money will be used in buying the Bunnell site and another site offered in Highland Place. The board deems it wise to secure a site now before prices go up. The \$22,000 will not leave a surplus by any means, and if a few hundred should remain over, there is a deficit from the other buildings which will more than use it.

It is understood that the request for the calling of such an election has been made by the board of the mayor and that he will in a few days issue the call. The election will take place the latter part of March probably. Now is the time to register so you can vote to keep the Iola schools up to the needs of the blessed infants.

School Fund Gets \$2,699.97.

According to the semi-annual apportionment of the state school fund, which has just been completed by the clerical force in State Superintendent Nelson's office, the amount to be apportioned at this time is 33 cents per capita, one cent more than last February. This one cent makes a difference of more than \$5,000 in the total amount.

The total school population this year is 503,963, as against 508,854 a year ago. The amount to be distributed at this apportionment is \$190,545.57, while last year it was over three thousand dollars less, 193,366.80. The school population and amount apportioned to the neighboring counties are as follows:

Counties	Population	Apportionment
Allen	16,973	\$2,699.97
Anderson	4,514	1,811.16
Coffey	5,905	2,302.95
Neosho	6,827	2,662.67
Woodson	3,805	1,244.39

No Gas at Ft. Scott.

When the people of Ft. Scott decided to drill for gas they did not listen to anybody's advice. If anyone on earth found gas, of course Ft. Scott people could. "Birds fly, and why can't I?" The REGISTER took great pains to print the report of the U. S. geologist, showing that the strata of shales and rock which holds the gas cropped out near the surface at Ft. Scott, even the Mississippi river reaching the surface east of there.

Wednesday, the first well was finished and abandoned at Ft. Scott. At a depth of 450 feet the drill struck the Mississippian limestone, and work ceased. Not even a smell of gas was found. The rest of the state would like to see Ft. Scott drill on down, however, and explore what lies below this rock, which by general consent has been conceded to be the bottom of all things gaseous.

Gold at Two More Towns.

Two men are working on a 300-acre lease near Neodesha, taking out a car load of quartz rock which they find close to the surface. Last year a miner named Cook saw some of the rock, had it assayed, and on the quiet secured leases and is now at work. It is not a shale but a quartz and is said to contain gold, but the men will not say how much.

Mr. Wiley, superintendent of Cherokee's south brick plant, says he has found shining particles in the shale there which he thinks is the same as the Trego county gold.

Humboldt some months ago found gold in quartz. Things have come to such a pass in Kansas that the man who denies the finding of anything in Kansas soil is promptly considered crazy.

One Road Will Use Water.

It was a good thing in many ways for Iola that she delayed the building of a waterworks plant until she had a good idea of how big a plant she needed. But it was a bad thing that delay was so long that all the factories had made arrangements to maintain their own water plants. If all were using city water, Iola from her abundance would not miss the amount and would be getting a nice sum from its sale.

The Ft. Scott, Iola & Western railroad will use city water. It was built after the plant was in and after the available places for getting water were preempted. Waterworks Superintendent Allison has arranged to put in a temporary standpipe for the road in its yards here and in time a permanent pipe will be put up.

What's the secret of happy, vigorous health? Simply keeping the bowels, the stomach, the liver and kidneys strong and active. Burdock Blood Bitters does it.

Increased Prices for SHEEP

There is always a way to get a good price for sheep. It requires just such a hold on the market as we have—and we are always ready to tell you about it. Increase of prices is our constant endeavor—and accomplishment. Write to-day; call any time. We enjoy the largest selling and buying facilities in the world—always at your service, whether for work or for inquiry.



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LOCAL NEWS

Trapping a Witness. An interesting case of a lawyer trying to trap a witness is recounted by the Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

In a country court a case of horse-stealing was being tried. The evidence seemed clear as several people had seen the prisoner near the premises, a neighboring farmer's testimony being particularly damaging. The prisoner's lawyer hoping to tangle this farmer, kept up a fire of questions, asking many foolish ones, and repeating himself again in the hope of deceiving the witness into a contradiction.

"You say," the lawyer went on, "that you can swear to having seen this man drive a horse past your farm on the day in question?"

"I can," replied the witness, wearily for he had already answered the question a dozen times.

"What time was this?"

"I told you it was about the middle of the forenoon."

"But I don't want any 'abouts' or 'middles.' I want you to tell the jury exactly the time."

"Why," said the farmer, "I don't always carry a gold watch with me when I'm digging potatoes."

"But you have a clock in the house, haven't you?"

"Yes."

"Well, what time was it by that?"

"Why, by that clock it was just 19 minutes past 10."

"You were in the field all the morning?" went on the lawyer, smiling suggestively.

"I was."

"How far from the house is this field?"

"About half a mile."

"You swear, do you, that by the clock in your house it was just 19 minutes past 10?"

"I do."

The lawyer then paused and looked triumphantly at the jury. At last he had entrapped the witness into a contradictory statement that would greatly weaken his evidence.

The farmer leisurely picked up his hat and started to leave the witness stand. Then turning slowly about, he added:

"I ought, perhaps to say that too much reliance should not be placed on that clock as it got out of gear six months ago, and its been 19 minutes past 10 ever since."

Working Overtime.

Eight hour laws are ignored by those tireless little workers—Dr. King's New Life Pills. Millions are always at work, night and day curing Indigestion, Bilelessness, Constipation, Sick Headache and all stomach, Liver, and Bowel troubles. easy, pleasant, safe sure. Only 25c at Evans Bro's drug store.

Too late to cure a cold after consumption has fastened its deadly grip on the lungs. Take Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup while yet there is time.

are selling at forty cents a dozen in Kansas City, but the price is expected to fall as soon as a few sunny days appear to encourage the hens. The price is nearly as bad in Iola.

Over in the county recorder's office today was filed the deed which gives to the city of Iola, free, beautiful Riverside Park. It is certainly to be hoped that a way may be found to beautify and utilize this handsome grove so that the residents of Iola may get the utmost enjoyment and benefit from it.

Mrs. N. E. Fisher, who has been been visiting her daughter, Mrs. L. P. Stover here, returned to her home in Humboldt as she received news that her brother, Mose Neal is home from Oklahoma for a visit. Neal is one of the ancient landmarks of Allen county and is now Indian agent in Oklahoma.

Mr. F. V. Crouch, when asked about the action of the council last week granting him a franchise to furnish electric power in the city on his agreement to give the city twenty-five per cent of the gross receipts, says he cannot consider the proposition for a minute. If he cannot get better terms—and he cites the telephone franchise which requires but 3 per cent, he will simply not act.

The ladies of the public library gave another chicken pie supper at the Odd Fellows last Friday. It was as well patronized as the first one, and the pies were more abundant. The cooking was good and the service excellent considering the difficulties. As a result the patrons were pleased and the ladies secured over \$30 for new books for the library.

An interesting trial was set for hearing before Judge Hough yesterday but was postponed until March 11. The case is that of State against Jerry Bedwell of Gas City. It seems that during the recent grand jury agitation Mr. Bennett visited Gas City and he and Bedwell had a dispute as to ways and means of enforcing the liquor law and the merits of the law. The upshot was that Bedwell struck Bennett and the latter has made a State case out of it.

When you lack energy, do not relish your food, feel dull and stupid, after eating, all you need is a dose of Chamberlain's Stomach & Liver Tablets. They will make you feel like a new man and give you an appetite like a bear. For sale by W. L. Crabb & Co., Campbell & Burrell.

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OUR PROPOSITION: Any boy or girl who will secure for us Ten Subscriptions to the Kansas City Weekly Journal at the regular subscription price of 25c per year each, making a total of \$2.50, and send us the names and addresses, together with the money, we will mail to him or her, postage prepaid, one "Eclipse" watch as described below: The "Eclipse" watch is a beauty! Gun metal finish; stem wind and stem set open face. The "Eclipse" is a watch that is a credit to anyone to carry as a timepiece.

Now, boys and girls here is your chance. See your neighbors, your friends your relatives, and get them to subscribe for the Weekly Journal. It will only take you a little while to secure a list of ten subscribers and earn this beautiful watch we assure you is well worth the effort.

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